



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2017

File No. 415

Senate Bill No. 975

Senate, April 4, 2017

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist. and SEN. LOGAN of the 17th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft flown remotely by a pilot via a
3 ground control system or autonomously through the use of an
4 onboard computer or additional equipment necessary for such aircraft
5 to operate safely.
- 6 (b) No municipality shall enact or enforce an ordinance or
7 resolution that regulates the ownership, possession, purchase, sale,
8 use, transportation or operation of unmanned aircraft or otherwise
9 engage in the regulation of the ownership, possession, purchase, sale,
10 use, transportation or operation of such aircraft, except as otherwise
11 authorized by the Connecticut general statutes or federal law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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PD*Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

There is a potential revenue loss to municipalities resulting from the bill, which limits municipalities from regulating and enforcing ordinances related to unmanned aircraft. To the extent that various municipalities would seek to regulate these aircraft, the bill limits any revenue resulting from violations of local ordinances.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 975*****AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits municipalities, except as state or federal law provides, from enacting or enforcing ordinances or resolutions regulating the ownership, possession, purchase, sale, use, transportation, or operation of unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones). Under the bill, an unmanned aircraft is one flown remotely by a pilot using a ground control system or autonomously using an onboard computer or additional equipment necessary for its safe operation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Federal Regulation of Drones***

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations establish specific requirements for drones depending on whether they are used for commercial or recreational purposes. Commercial drone use is subject to the Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rule which establishes operational limits (e.g., maximum speed and altitude) and certification requirements and responsibilities for remote pilots (14 C.F.R. § 107.1 et seq.). Recreational use is subject to the Special Rule for Model Aircraft which requires operators to register their drones with the FAA and follow certain operating rules (14 C.F.R. § 101.41).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 5 (03/17/2017)